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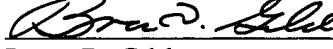
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application Serial No: 10/017,445 Confirmation No.: 6377
Date Filed: December 14, 2001
Application Title: Methods For Determining Organisms Not Requiring The Separation Of Fixative Or Excess Probe
Applicants: Rigby et al.
Group Art Unit: 1634
Examiner: Sally A. Sakelaris
Action Date: March 25, 2003
Action Type: First Office Action On Merits – Non-FINAL
Certified Mail No: 7003 0500 0000 1731 7017

Certificate of Mailing Pursuant to:
37 C.F.R. §1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 23rd day of July, 2003.

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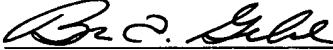
Brian D. Gildea
Reg. No. 39,995

Petition Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)

Commissioner for Patents

Dear Sir or Madam:

Applicants hereby petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for an automatic one-month extension of time to file a response to the Office Action mailed on March 25, 2003. With this extension, the due date for the response should be July 25, 2003. The Office is hereby authorized to deduct the fee set forth under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(1) for a one-month extension for a large entity, believed to be \$ 110.00, from Deposit Account No. 02-3240.



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